



**MICHIGAN DISABILITY RIGHTS COALITION
WITH LIBERTY AND ACCESS FOR ALL**

MDRC
Board

May 14, 2013

*Terri Cady,
Chair*

Dear Chairman Lyons and Members of the Michigan House Elections and Ethics Committee;

*Sharon
Emery,
Vice-Chair*

The Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC) is a statewide organization that works to build opportunities for people with disabilities so they may live fully integrated lives within their chosen communities, now and in the future. Full citizenship is the expected role that people with disabilities will play, and their hopes and dreams parallel those of citizens without disabilities.

*Jed Magen,
Treasurer*

*Darlene
Walker,
Secretary*

MDRC supports HB 4478 and commends Representative Schor for its introduction. Voting is a right and responsibility afforded to everyone and people with disabilities are no exception. The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) helped the Disability Community makes great strides in voting and polling access. Given this great momentum, it would be a shame to allow barriers to remain simply because a person is unable to write their name.

Amy Maes

Ron West

*Yusuf
Seegars*

Many people with disabilities use assistive technology (AT) on a daily basis to live full and independent lives. Assistive technology does not have to be high-tech. In fact research shows that the most effective AT is both low-tech and low-cost.

Tari Muñiz

Al Swain

Please support HB 4478 to allow people with disabilities the use of a hand stamp or mark to assist them in voting and make their voice heard. It is fair and common sense.

Sophia Pizzo

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Laura Hall

Assistive Technology Information Coordinator

Michigan Disability Rights Coalition

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